

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-12, without prejudice. Please add new claims 13-20, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claims 1 - 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (new): A method for producing a thin film comprising:

providing a first substrate having a face surface;

introducing ions into the first substrate at the face surface, such that microcavities are formed in the first substrate during or after introducing the ions, wherein the microcavities define a thin film layer extending from the first surface to the microcavities, and wherein the microcavities reside between solid bridges of the first substrate;

bonding a second substrate to the face surface of the first substrate; and

applying mechanical forces to fracture the solid bridges.

Claim 14 (new): The method for producing a thin film according to claim 13, further comprising applying energy to the first substrate.

Claim 15 (new): The method for producing a thin film according to claim 14, wherein applying energy comprises applying thermal energy.

Claim 16 (new): The method for producing a thin film according claim 14, wherein applying energy comprises applying energy after introducing ions.

Claim 17 (new): A method for producing a thin film comprising:

providing a first substrate having a face surface;

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introducing ions into the first substrate at the face surface and forming microcavities in the first substrate, wherein the microcavities define a thin film layer extending from the first surface to the microcavities, and wherein the microcavities reside between solid bridges of the first substrate;

bonding a second substrate to the face surface of the first substrate; and

applying mechanical forces to fracture the solid bridges.

Claim 18 (new): The method for producing a thin film according to claim 17, further comprising applying energy to the first substrate.

Claim 19 (new): The method for producing a thin film according to claim 17, wherein applying energy comprises applying thermal energy.

Claim 20 (new): The method for producing a thin film according to claim 17, wherein applying energy comprises applying energy after introducing ions.

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